

**Amendments To The Specification:**

Please replace the specified paragraphs of the specification presently on file with the following amended paragraphs:

[0001] This patent application is a continuation-in-part of the abandoned US non-provisional Patent Application No. 10/625,906 entitled "Encapsulated Optical Package" filed July 24, 2003, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C § 120. This application is also related to commonly assigned ~~co-pending applications filed herewith bearing application number 10/625,905~~ patents US 7,522,807 titled: "Optical Connector Assembly" and ~~10/625,901~~ US 7,197,224 titled: "Optical Ferrule", ~~the specifications of which are hereby incorporated by reference.~~